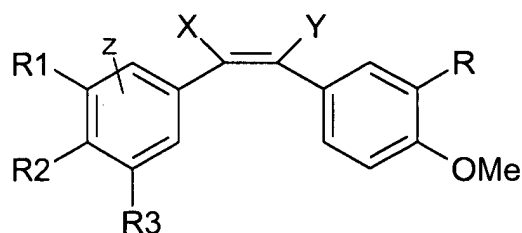


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I)



wherein:

R₁, R₂ and R₃, which can be the same or different, are ~~[[H,]]~~ OMe, NO₂, NHR';

X and Y are halogen or H with at least one of them being halogen;

Z = H or halogen

R = OH, OPO₃Na₂, OCH₂OPO₃Na₂, NO₂, NHR';

R' = H, alkyl (C₁-C₆), ~~(COCHR''NH)_n~~-H;

R'' = H, an amino acid side chain, Ph;

n an integer comprised between 1 and 3;

~~[[their]]~~ its pharmaceutically acceptable salts, racemates and single enantiomers salt, racemate and single enantiomer.

2. (currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

a compound wherein at least one of X and Y is halogen, R₁-R₃ are methoxy, and R is hydroxy;

a compound wherein at least one of X and Y is halogen, R₁-R₃ are methoxy, R is amino or substituted amino;

a compound wherein at least one of X and Y is halogen, R₁-R₃ are different from methoxy, R is hydroxy; and

a compound wherein R is OPO₃Na₂ ~~and~~

~~a compound wherein R' is (COCHR''NH)_n-H.~~

3. (previously presented) A compound according to Claim 1, wherein R'' is the side chain of a natural amino acid.

4. (currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

X = Y = F; R = OPO₃Na₂: difluorocombretastatin;

X = Y = F; R = NH₂: difluoroaminocombretastatin;

X = H; Y = F; R = OPO₃Na₂: monofluorocombretastatin;

X = F; Y = H; R = OPO₃Na₂: monofluorocombretastatin;

X = H; Y = F; R = NH₂: monofluoroaminocombretastatin;

X = F; Y = H; R = NH₂: monofluoroaminocombretastatin ~~[{-}]~~; and

X = Br; Y = F; R = OPO₃Na₂: bromofluorocombretastatin.

5. (original) A process for the preparation of the compounds of Claim 1, wherein X and Y are both F comprising the following steps:

a) reaction of 1-bromo-1,2-difluoro-2-(4-methoxy-3-(protected OH)-phenyl)ethene with 3-R₁-4-

R₂-5-R₃-phenylboronic acid, and

b) restoring the 3-(protected OH) group.

6. (original) A process for the preparation of compounds of Claim 1, wherein one of the X and Y is F and the other one is hydrogen, comprises the following steps:

- a) bromofluorination of the compound of Formula (I), wherein X and Y are H, and
- b) base-promoted HBr elimination.

7. (original) A process for the preparation of compounds of Claim 1, wherein one of the X and Y is F, comprising the following steps:

- a) transformation of compound of Formula (I), wherein X and Y are H into the respective bromohydrin, and
- b) base-promoted HBr elimination.

8. (original) A process for the preparation of compounds of Claim 1, wherein one of the X and Y is F, comprising the following steps:

- a) transformation of compound of Formula (I), wherein X and Y are H into the respective epoxide;
- b) epoxide opening to give the respective bromohydrin, and
- c) base-promoted HBr elimination, or in alternative,
- d) epoxide opening to give the respective fluorohydrin, and
- e) elimination of the opportune hydroxyl derivative.

9. (original) A process for the preparation of compounds of Claim 1, wherein one of the X or Y is F and the other is Br, comprising the following steps:

- a) transformation of compound of Formula (I), wherein X and Y are H into the respective bromohydrin, and
- b) base-promoted HBr elimination.

10. (previously presented) A method of inhibiting tubulin polymerization comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

11.-12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method according to Claim 13, ~~wherein said~~ of treating a tumour ~~[[is]]~~ selected from the group consisting of sarcoma, carcinoma, carcinoid, bone tumour, neuroendocrine tumour, lymphoid leukaemia, acute promyelocytic leukaemia, myeloid leukaemia, monocytic leukaemia, megakaryoblastic leukaemia, non Hodgkin's disease, hemangiomas and multiple myeloma, and anaplastic thyroid cancer, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

15. (canceled).

16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method according to Claim 16, wherein said
pathological state caused by abnormal angiogenesis ~~[[is]]~~ selected from the group consisting of
tumour metastases; arthritic disease; diabetic retinopathy; macular degeneration, psoriasis;
chronic inflammatory diseases and arteriosclerosis comprising administering to a subject an
effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

18. (canceled).

19. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least a compound of
Claim 1, in admixture with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or excipient.

20. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method according to claim 18, wherein the non-
neoplastic disease is of treating ischemia-induced proliferative retinopathy comprising
administering to a subject an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

21. (new) A method of treating a lung carcinoma comprising administering to a subject an
effective amount of a compound of claim 1.